# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4979
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2000
SETTING UP OF INDO-US CO-ORDINATING GROUP
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**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India and USA have decided to set up a Co-ordinating Group;

(b) if so, the composition and objectives of the group; and

(c) the time by which the Group is likely to be set up?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) During the visit of President Clinton, India and the United States agreed to institutionalise a regular, wide-ranging dialogue for achieving the goal of establishing closer and multi-faceted relations and to work jointly for promotion of peace and prosperity in the 21st century. As part of this dialogue architecture, the two countries agreed to institutionalise bilateral economic dialogue. The Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States will keep themselves informed and follow developments in the bilateral economic dialogue closely through a high level co-ordinating group.

(b) The Co-ordinating Group will be led on the Indian side by Prime Minister`s Office with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs, and on the US side by the White House with the support of the State Department.The Co-ordinating Group will develop a common economic agenda and undertake preparations for the Heads of Government meetings. With broad inter-agency and inter-ministerial representations at the senior official level, it would convene regularly to facilitate close co-ordination on the various issues raised in the ministerial dialogues and ensure that discussions therein complement and reinforce broad economic and foreign policy objectives, including the deepening of bilateral co-operation on high technology and information technology issues.

(c) Both sides intend to have an early commencement of the economic dialogue. The dates for the meetings will be decided through mutual consultations. Government has already announced the constitution of the Co-ordinating Group on the Indian side.